

Inside out

Pages 11-13

*Technical
sergeant in J-1
gets a STEP up*

Pages 25-26

*Command
celebrates
Black History*

Pages 18-19

Pages 27-29

*DoD works on
anthrax policy*

Navy South Stands up

See pages 2-3



Photo by Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class
Tedrick E. Frymann III

The
Command  **Run**

Vol. 1 No. 2 ■ Miami ■ Feb. 25, 2000

Command Run

is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Command Run* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs Office. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, a week before publication (the last Friday of each month). The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all submissions to journalistic standards. All photos are official photos unless otherwise noted. Acceptance of input by the public affairs staff does not guarantee publication.

* * * * *

Marine Corps Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm..... *Commander in Chief*
Army Col. Ronald B. Williams.....*Director of Public Affairs*

Editorial Staff

Army Lt. Col. John B. Snyder.....*Managing Editor*
Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts..... *Editor*
Army Staff Sgt. Kristine Bacharach.....*Assistant editor*

Navy South stands up in Puerto Rico

By CINCLANTFLT Public Affairs

R OOSEVELT R O A D S , Puerto Rico — The Navy established the United States Naval Forces Southern Command, the Navy component of the military's United States Southern Command, during a ceremony here Feb. 18.

The new organization is commanded by Rear Adm. Kevin Green and headquartered in Puerto Rico.

Green is responsible

for Navy operational forces in the United States Southern Command's area of responsibility. He will oversee U.S. naval forces participating in drug enforcement operations and interaction with South American naval forces, including the annual UNITAS operations around South America.

As the Navy's senior representative, Green serves as the principal liaison with the govern-

NAVSOUTH*from Page 2*

ment of Puerto Rico. As such, Green will work closely with government officials to implement President Clinton's Directive regarding resumption of naval exercises on the island of Vieques.

NAVSOUTH consolidates the responsibilities of the recently disestablished commander, Western Hemisphere Group and commander, South Atlantic.

For more information about the U.S. Navy in Puerto Rico, see <http://www.navstarr.navy.mil> on the Internet.



Engineers build futuristic composite building

By Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking

Public Affairs Support Element, National Guard
Bureau

SAN ISIDRO, Dominican Republic — Despite some skeptics who said it couldn't be done, a small Missouri Army National Guard engineer detachment and St. Louis volunteers recently razed those doubts by quickly constructing a futuristic composite building in record time on the island of Hispaniola.

The "Show-Me State" construction experts lived up to their name by erecting a hurricane and tropical-proof 36-by-24-foot, composite-material building in only three days as part of hemisphere-wide disaster-relief and humanitarian exercise called "Allied Forces" at San Isidro Air Base.

The demonstration was designed to

See Building
Page 5



A Missouri Army National Guard engineer detachment and St. Louis volunteers recently constructed this futuristic composite building on the Island of Hispaniola in the Dominican Republic.

Building from Page 4

show military officials and relief agencies from 35 nations from the Caribbean, Central and South America and the United States that the civilian and military forces can quickly replace damaged structures following disasters like hurricanes or floods by using state-of-the-art composite-building materials that require much less time to deliver and build compared to conventional methods.

Under the watchful eyes of hundreds of people from throughout the hemisphere, more than a dozen Missouri citizen-soldiers and four volunteers from Americacorp's Youth Build of St. Louis said they were slightly nervous knowing their



Military personnel and civilians tour the inside of the composite building that only took three days to build following a dedication ceremony today. The U.S.-led effort demonstrated how state-of-the-art composite materials can be erected in short time and lesser costs.

precedent-setting project was being closely scrutinized by the military engineers, humanitarian aid agencies and international officials.

"From one aspect, it hasn't been a lot of fun being an experiment and Guinea pigs. We had to play catch up all the time. We've been under the gun as far as that's

concerned with the three-day building deadline, little (logistical) support and the lack of tools has posed a problem," said Missouri Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Tom Raia of St. Louis and project officer for the Jefferson Barracks-based 235th Engineer Detachment.

"But this composite material beats the heck out of cinder block. This goes up so much faster than laying block, which would take weeks and involve sending more people," he added. "I think we'll see more buildings like this going up during future humanitarian exercises and you'll see much more smaller-scale exercises."

Developed through the

See **Building**
Page 6

Building

from Page 5

Lemay Center for Composites Technology and the U.S. Navy, composite materials — made famous on military Stealth aircraft — is strong and lightweight. Composites are also made through a “pultrusion” process using carbon fibers and commonly recycled items like plastic bottles. Some experts say composite building materials are still too high-priced for many developing countries with Missouri’s prototype-building materials estimated at more than at \$24,000. Guard engineers said that’s compared to a more than estimated \$10,000 price tag if the engineers had used conventional cinder-block materials.

However, proponents for the more than 25-different composite technologies being pondered by the U.S. military say that with the speed of composite construction, that alone means erecting the futuristic structures will require less time, less people, and less heavy machinery and specialized equipment, which dramatically drive up expensive transportation, personnel and other logistics costs. Because of that offset, composite proponents say those factors will more than make up for the cost of composite materials while rapidly helping people in need in an area of the world where natural disasters frequent.

“The military is trying to find another methodology when responding to these humanitarian and disaster-relief exercises,” Raia added.



Marine Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, inspected the futuristic structure made through a “pultrusion” process using carbon fibers and commonly recycled items like plastic bottles.

On the ground on a balmy, tropical Dominican Republic Air Force base, experienced engineers with the often-deployed unit say they are impressed with the design of the much prefabri-

cated composite building materials, which allowed them to complete the structure in a

See **Building**
Page 7

Building

from Page 6

mind-boggling three days. That feat came after Dominican Republic military troops in mid-February dug and poured a foundation just prior to their arrival from St. Louis aboard a Missouri Air National Guard C-130 “Hercules” cargo aircraft crewed by the St. Joseph-based 139th Air-lift Group.

“It’s pretty nice and it’s a lot lighter material than what we’re used to working with,” said Missouri Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Wes Vincent of Jefferson City, Mo., and detach-



Missouri Army National Guard Spc. Anthony Licavoli of St. Louis positions a floor joist with his hammer under the watchful eyes of Sgt. 1st Class Wes Vincent of Jefferson City, Mo. The construction showcased how U.S. forces can quickly replace damaged structures following disasters like hurricanes or floods.

ment noncommissioned officer in charge.

The 20-year-veteran and full-time Guard readiness specialist has seen

the 235th constantly deployed overseas to places like Panama, Germany and Honduras and was most notably involved in

disaster-relief efforts in Central America following Hurricane Mitch. Vincent said the small number of people and minute logistical requirements to support building with the composite structure should gain the attention of military and civilian disaster-response planners looking to save taxpayer’s dollars.

“If this had been a cinder block building, this would have taken weeks to build and rotations of hundreds of troops with a base camp and all kinds of other logistical support packages — not to mention all the transportation costs involved,” Vincent said. “

As far as everything else we’ve built in the past, this is like putting up Tinker Toys.”

One of the other selling points of composite buildings like the one being currently developed at the University of Missouri-Rolla is the building materials ease of transportability, simple construction requiring few specialized tools or heavy equipment, the material’s resistance to termites and rot that typically endanger buildings in the tropics, and, most importantly, the structure’s promise to withstand hurricane force

See **Building**
Page 8

Building

from Page 7

winds. But for other troops constructing the composite building, they are most impressed with the ease of which the pre-cut, space-age material is assembled, remembering the “long days and long nights” spent building schools and medical clinics following deadly Hurricane Mitch in Honduras.

“I think speed is the main thing. You can put one of these up and move on and do another one. It’s pretty fast,” said Missouri Army National Guard Spc. George Hummel, 20, a concrete and asphalt equipment operator with the 235th from Jefferson City. “I think we could have put it up faster, but we’ve never done it before so we’ll only get bet-



Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, addresses the press in the Dominican Republic today about the composite building and other issues.

ter at doing it by doing more of it. But we’re kind of like Guinea pigs down here because people want to see what happens.”

The composite-building demonstration had another first of sorts. In what is a military rarity on such exercises, civilian volunteers with YouthBuild of St. Louis flew aboard a lumbering C-130 aircraft with the Missouri citizen-soldiers to help out on the project because they had previously worked with composite buildings during community construction projects in the Gateway city.

Three of the YouthBuild volunteers are studying for their high-school equivalency degrees while also training in the construction trades as part of long-running government program mostly targeting inner-city youth.

One young man who just completed his GED test and was hired as a mason, said he was impressed by the Missouri Guard

building exercise and experiencing another culture after venturing outside of the United States for the first time and meeting the friendly people of the Dominican Republic.

Pro baseball sensation Sammy Sosa, a native of nearby San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, would have been proud.

“First, there’s a lot of cooperation and teamwork between our guys and the Guard. Everybody is pulling together. I’ve got a lot to talk about with my family and friends when I get back home to St. Louis,” said 23-year-old Sean Grady of St. Louis and a YouthBuild graduate. “It’s been really hard work with pretty rough conditions, but I

See **Building**
Page 9

Building from Page 8

hope it helps the Dominican people. There's nice weather here and the people have been really nice."

After erecting and dedicating their first-ever composite building, the Missouri soldiers and St. Louis volunteers will literally be leaving behind a high-tech monument along the south coast of the Dominican Republic as a symbol of the United States government's desire to help people in time of need.

Other military officials said the effort will go a long way toward sav-

ing lives and helping people during future disasters while also making future military operations more efficient.

"The idea is to be able to bring in a platoon of soldiers and erect a building on one single visit instead of a series of rotations involving hundreds of troops. What a retention tool that would be for the units. They could say: 'This is our building,'" said U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Mike White with the 416th Engineer Command based in Darien, Ill. "We should be able to bring in these troops and be able to erect a building in no time."

For the Missouri



Troops from the Missouri Army National Guard work on the foundation of the composite building, which was erected in three short days. The construction required few specialized tools or heavy equipment.

Army National Guard engineers and St. Louis volunteers, what they left behind was a sense of helping others in need. In return, their hosts were sincerely grateful.

Dominican Republic Army Cpl. Christian Acosta visited the work site on his Sunday day off to deliver freshly cut sugar cane he gathered with a machete from

nearby cane fields so the Missouri citizen-soldiers and St. Louis delegation would truly get a flavor of his country before completing the composite demonstration.

"We appreciate the National Guard's presence here, especially when they come to build something that is this impressive. The rest of the Dominican soldiers are very astounded to see the building going up so quickly," said Acosta, whose own home in San Isidro was previously destroyed by Hurricane Georges. "I came here during my day off because I like working with the Americans."



Haiti happenings

(Top left) An aerial view of Task Force Creole Base Camp, one of three such camps in Haiti. (Bottom left) A civil engineer crew works on the foundation of a new structure at JTF Creole Base Camp. Construction is ongoing to repair existing dormitories, to install new roofs and ceilings, and to repair walls, and electrical fixtures and wiring. Crews are also working on constructing new orphanage dorm rooms, latrines, and to repair a dining facility. Military members at all three base camps are participating in the New Horizons exercise.



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Air Force Master Sgt. Karen Thompson, J-1 Manpower, Personnel and Administration Directorate, recently received a promotion to the rank of master sergeant from Brig. Gen. James Soligan through the Air Force's Stripes for Exceptional Performers Program -- also known as STEP.

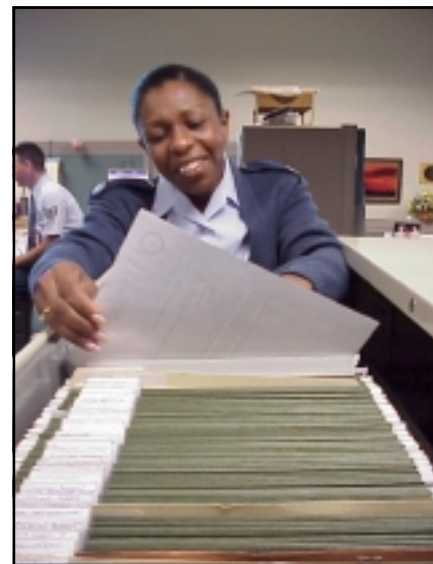
NCO gets a STEP up

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF**

Command Run Editor

MIAMI -- The highest-ranking Air Force officer at the U.S. Southern Command made an unexpected late afternoon visit Feb. 4 to the J-1 Manpower, Personnel and Administration Directorate to give a NCO a STEP up.

Brig. Gen. James Soligan, dual hatted as the Air Force Element commander and director of the J-5 Strategic, Policy, and Plans Directorate, wasn't there to participate in an aerobics exercise. He was there to recognize and promote Tech. Sgt.



Master Sgt. Karen Thompson files some paperwork in her office Tuesday.

Karen Thompson to the rank of master sergeant through the Air Force's Stripes for Exceptional Performers Program -- also

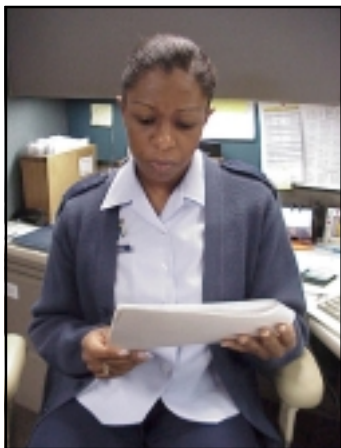
See STEP
Page 12

STEP*from Page 11*

known as a STEP promotion.

The general addressed a group of J-1 members, and then called Thompson to the forefront of the crowd. Soligan asked Thompson if she was responsible for some poor-quality, promotion-board records, catching her off guard... before announcing her promotion.

"It was good -- in traditional STEP fashion," explained Senior Master Sgt. Bill Hoerman, the command's Air Force senior enlisted advisor and J-1 NCO in charge. Soligan came in, gave her



Master Sgt. Karen Thompson reads through some personnel evaluation papers in the J-1 directorate Tuesday.

a hard time, popped out the stripes, and with Col. Kathleen Rhodes, the J-1 director, promoted and congratulated her. She just kind of fell apart. She was taken completely

by surprise, he said.

Thompson, a 15-year Air Force veteran who works as an evaluations and promotion programs manager in the J-1, said she was "shocked."

"The general came down and started talking about some things that have to do with my job," she said. "He started talking about the officer promotion side of the house... until he brought up the STEP promotion... and I started crying."

For Thompson, the promotion was unexpected. However, her subordinates, peers, and supervisors weren't amazed by her good fortune.

"From what I can determine she is a splendid NCO, independent operator, mature, and often called upon by the director when it comes to Air Force promotion and evaluation issues."

Army Lt. Col. Harry Williams

J-1 Military Personnel Division Chief

Army Lt. Col. Harry Williams, the chief of the J-1 Military Personnel Division, said he recognizes the competition is very keen in such an event. "But it doesn't surprise me that she would have been the one voted to get the STEP for the command. From what I can determine she is a

splendid NCO, independent operator, mature, and often called upon by the director when it comes to Air Force promotion and evaluation issues."

Thompson said she works with officers from

See STEP
Page 13

STEP*from Page 12*

every service and often has to teach them about the Air Force promotion and evaluation systems. Being able to communicate with a customer and helping them succeed is something she enjoys, but a responsibility taken seriously, she said.

Throughout her career, Thompson has taken a proactive approach, a formula that has helped her succeed, and positively effected her personnel mission.

She entered the Air Force in 1984 and has served at the Defense Intelligence Agency; National Security Agency; Athens, Greece; Honduras; and Pope Air Force Base, N.C., before arriving here. Along the



way, she volunteered and served in numerous positions with civic and military organizations, and been active in the Better Oppor-

tunities for Single Soldiers Program and Mentor Program. She even has 59 hours of college credit towards her Community

College of the Air Force degree.

Thompson's leadership and job performance has been acclaimed -- she has received prestigious accolades from every unit she has been associated with.

Williams said her performance has been stellar everywhere she has served... and he would like to have six more NCOs just like her working in his division.

The promotion "was a significant emotional event needless to say," Williams said. "This promotion reaffirms to me the extra step the Air Force takes in caring for their airmen," he said. "It was good to see a deserving individual recognized in an impromptu situation. It was heart-felt throughout the J-1 directorate, and I know it was a great surprise to her.

Peace has its awards

Phillip T. Chicola (Upper left), Department of State director of Andean Affairs, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, addresses U.S. Southern Command personnel during the U.S. Contingent Commanders Military Observer Mission Ecuador-Peru Awards Ceremony held at the headquarters Jan. 28. Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm (Bottom left), USSOUTHCOM commander in chief, congratulates eight colonels who received medals for their part in achieving a permanent and historic peace settlement between Peru and Ecuador, century-long enemies. The color guard (Upper right) opens the ceremony, and then the awards were presented (bottom right). (Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Kristine Bacharach)



Get ready for a 'second career'

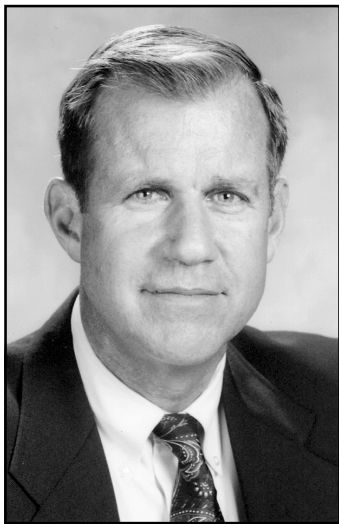
By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, USAF

Command Run Editor

MIAMI -- Have you taken into account just how difficult the transition to civilian life will be when you depart or retire from the military?

If you haven't -- the Family Support Center staff wants to help! They are sponsoring a free employment seminar at the U.S. Southern Command's Main Conference Room March 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. to assist people with their job search.

Marva Creary, the



**Retired Marine
Lt. Col. Buzz Buse**

Employment Readiness Program manager, said the command's leadership cares very much about the well being of its military personnel, and that caring

continues even when people leave to enter the civilian work force.

"That's why the Family Support Center is having this workshop," she stressed. "We want to give every military member in the command the opportunity to be successful by making themselves marketable for the work force in the civilian world."

Creary said to get military members ready for the transition, retired Marine Lt. Col. Buzz Buse, from the Retired Officers Association, is presenting a lecture at the seminar titled "Market-

ing Yourself for a Second Career." He will cover topics such as dealing with job competition, perceptions of military people, how to conduct the job search, how to strengthen a resume, networking, interviewing skills, and conducting salary negotiations and benefit packages, she said.

A Marine infantry officer for 25 years, Buse retired in 1988. He then worked at an accounting firm in Chicago and later at a law firm in McLean, Va., before assuming his position at TROA. In his first two jobs, he hired

between 50 and 75 employees at every level, which gave him a unique perspective as director of officer placement at TROA, and with assisting military members with the transition to civilian employment, Creary said. Creary added that she expects the presentation to be very informative and entertaining because Buse has an extensive background in personnel hiring, and because he is a very dynamic speaker.

"People will leave the seminar with a lot of

See Seminar
Page 16

Seminar

from Page 15

resources,” creary said. “Participants get hand out materials and a free copy of the publication, ‘Marketing Yourself for a Second Career.’ So they will have the tools to go back and review and think about what they learned.”

Creary said it is vital that people begin getting prepared early for life after the military. She highly encourages everyone within five years of retirement or end of service to take advantage of the beneficial employment information presented by Buse. He “knows his stuff and has a tremendous ability to impart that information so you walk away feeling equipped,” she said.

(Editor’s note: Call Marva Creary at **(305) 437-2671 or 2665** or toll free at **(888) 547-4025** by March 3 to reserve a spot at the seminar. She can also be contacted via E-mail at crearym@hq.southcom.mil)

McAbee honors unit’s generosity



(Above) Marine Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, and Renee Acosta, president of International Services Agencies, join Navy Capt. Larry Larson, Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba commander, and personnel who spearheaded \$62,920 in contributions to the 1999 Combined Federal Campaign. (Right) McAbee presents Petty Officer 1st Class Kristin Ellis a Gold Award plaque for her efforts as the CFC representative for the Executive Department. (Photos by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell)





Service recognition

Two retired sergeants major from the Army and Marine Corps visited the U.S. Southern Command Feb. 17 to present monetary awards from Geico Direct and USAA Insurance companies to the senior and junior enlisted person of the year. Retired Sergeant Major of the Army Richard A. Kidd, assistant vice president of Geico, presented Air Force Staff Sgt. Bridget R. Plifka and Petty Officer 3rd Class David M. Stanton Jr., with \$250 and a gold watch. Retired Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Personnel James H. Lewis, military affairs representative for USAA, presented each award winner with a \$1,000 savings bond.

(Above, left to right) Army Maj. Gen. Alfred Valenzuela, U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief; Richard A. Kidd, former sergeant major of the Army; Air Force Staff Sgt. Bridget R. Plifka, Protocol Office; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class David M. Stanton Jr., J-2 Intelligence Directorate; James H. Lewis, former sergeant major of the Marine Corps Personnel; and USSOUTHCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Laye pose in front of the headquarters building after the awards ceremony Feb. 17.

Anthrax exemptions are 'good medicine'

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

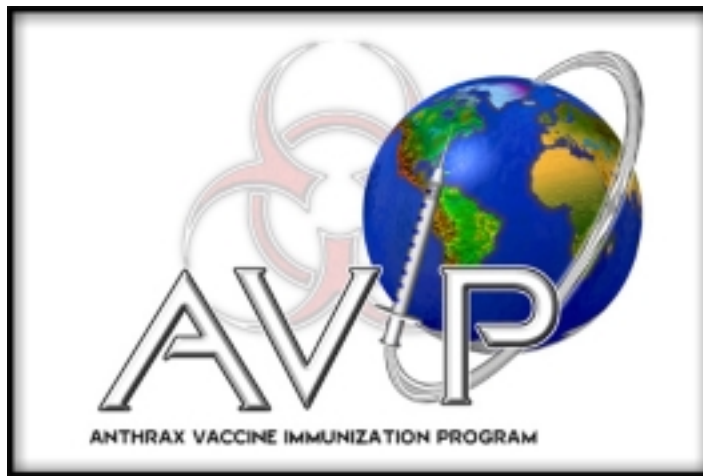
WASHINGTON -- DoD officials are in the process of approving a policy that standardizes exemptions to the anthrax vaccination program. But, they said, they provided exemptions because it's "good medicine," not because of any concerns about the vaccine's safety or efficacy.

The new exemptions fall into two categories, administrative and medi-

cal, said Marine Maj. Gen. Randy L. West, special adviser to the secretary of defense for anthrax and bio-defense affairs.

The administrative exemption refers mainly to service members who are within 180 days of separation and are not likely to be deployed to one of the key anthrax-threat areas -- Korea and Southwest Asia. The six-shot vaccination series takes 18 months to complete.

"If a person is within 180 days of discharge and not likely to be deployed



DoD officials are in the process of approving a policy that standardizes exemptions to the anthrax vaccination program.

to a high-threat area, it doesn't make sense to start a program that takes 18 months to complete," West said. "We wouldn't be able to complete the series while the person was on active duty. "However," he continued, "if a

person is within 180 days of separation and is in a hostile area or is unexpectedly deployed to a hostile area, we will vaccinate them and give them as much protection as we can under the approved FDA protocol."

The general said the services were looking at the issue of exemptions for separating personnel differently, with recommendations ranging from 90 to 180 days. DoD officials decided to set one standard.

Medically speaking, certain individuals shouldn't receive any immunizations, including anthrax. "Anthrax is a mandatory vaccination, but we want it to be given just like every other vaccine," West said. "If a person has a medical reason not to take the vaccine or to be temporarily exempt from taking it, we

See Anthrax
Page 19

Anthrax

from Page 18

want that to happen.”

Medical exemptions fall into several categories:

Adverse reaction

West said a person who has a suspected severe reaction after a shot would be temporarily exempt until the cause can be definitely determined. If the vaccine is the cause, the individual would be exempt from further doses.

During pregnancy

“There’s no history that would cause us to believe the anthrax vaccine would be harmful. However, there haven’t been any tests done to prove that,” West said. “Since we know that a woman’s body goes through a lot of changes and a lot of chal-



lenges during pregnancy, we would just like to avoid adding to those challenges by requiring her to take the anthrax vaccine.”

Security, privacy notice

Vaccinations are commonly deferred for individuals taking drugs that suppress the immune system because the

drugs reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine, not because there would be an adverse reaction to the combination.

“The purpose of vaccines is to build antibodies in your body,” said Army Lt. Col. Gaston M. Randolph Jr., director of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization

Program. “When you’re taking immunosuppressant drugs, your body doesn’t build antibodies. It’s sort of a waste to take the vaccine.”

Recent illness, surgery

“If individuals had recently been ill or had recently had surgery we wouldn’t want them to take a shot until they were fully recovered,” West said.

West said these measures address “common-sense medical situations,” but said he felt the exemptions provide clarification because of the public controversy surrounding the vaccine.

Randolph explained that medical exemptions have always been covered in the healthcare providers’ briefing, but until now have not been spelled out in a single clear, concise guideline to service members. (AFPS)

General speaks at Roosevelt House 50th anniversary



(Left) Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, speaks Feb. 10 at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt House located at Curacao, which is the U.S. Consulate building. He stressed how proud he was to celebrate the anniversary of the Roosevelt House, and with officials from Curacao and Aruba present, also noted the importance of their partnership with SOUTHCOM. The general said the Forward Operating Location located there is an important architecture for all involved as they enter the new century.

(Right) Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm and the Consul General Barbara Stephenson pose next to a portrait of President Franklin Roosevelt located in the home's library. The home was named after Roosevelt to honor the great statesman and leader of the United States during World War II.



Photos by Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt House, the U.S. Consulate at Curacao, was donated in 1950 to the United States by His Excellency Leonard Antoon Hubert Peters, governor of the Netherlands West Indies. The house was built as a memorial of perpetual friendship between the people of the Netherlands West Indies and the people of the United States following World War II.

News briefs

Miami area tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour March 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tour is free to military personnel and their families.

The tour begins and ends at the ITT Building, Suite 425. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call (305) 437-2665.

Newcomers brief

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a newcomers briefing March 7 from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at PBA Hall at 10680 NW 25th Street. The briefing is the first Tuesday of every month.

The briefing includes presentations from TRICARE;

SOUTHCOM Health Clinic; Housing Office; Traffic Management Office; Education Office; Legal Office; Quality of Life Office; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; DoD Police; and the chaplain. For more information or to reserve your seat at the briefing, call (305) 437-2667 or 2665, or toll free at (888) 547-4025.

Finance education

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Financial Planning Workshop March 28 at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Conference Room 1403. The workshop is open to

see **Briefs**

Page 22

Save those little bottles

Do you travel and stay at hotels or military lodging? Do you actually use all those little bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion and other stuff?

The U.S. Southern Command Spouses' Group is collecting those small toiletry items for distribution to a local homeless shelter. They will have several drop-off boxes throughout the headquarters building beginning in early March. Thanks in advance for helping our South Florida neighbors who have fallen on hard times.



Briefs

from Page 21

service members, DoD civilians, family members and retirees.

For more information, call Marta Acevedo, Financial Readiness Program manager, at (305) 437-2645 or 2665.

Smooth move

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Smooth Move briefing March 21 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Conference Room 1401. The briefing is the third Tuesday of every month.

The briefing offers a smooth move out-processing briefing for all service and fam-

ily members. Presenters will provide useful information needed before a permanent change of station move.

For more information or to sign up for the next briefing, call (305) 437-2667 or 2665.

Pre-separation

The pre-separation briefing (required prior to TAP briefing) is March 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the ITT Building, Suite 425. Call (305) 437-2665 or 2675 for more information.

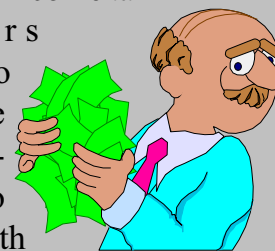
Scouting expo

There is a Scouting Youth Expo March 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pro Players Stadium.

see Briefs
Page 23

1999 Tax Assistance

The U.S. Southern Command has IRS trained volunteer income tax advisors available to provide free assistance to people with their 1999 tax returns.



These volunteers help with most routine federal tax returns every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the J-8 Conference Room (Room 1218). Call (305) 437-1307 to make an appointment.

Tax forms are available at the Legal Office from

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Forms are also available on the Internet at www.irs.ustreas.gov/plain/forms_pubs/forms.html.

Electronic filing is also available. Drop off completed returns at the Legal Office during duty hours. No returns will be transmitted until two IRS Forms 8453 are signed by the taxpayer and spouse if applicable.

Complex tax assistance will be available when reserve tax attorneys are on duty. Military members are given priority for these appointments.

Briefs**from Page 22**

Entrance is free for military members and their dependents with a valid ID. Army National Guard is providing 40 personnel from the 743rd Maintenance Divison, a five-ton truck, and a U-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Marines Reserve is providing personnel, a HUMVEE and HEMET wrecker. The Army's Recruiting and Retention Team's "Army Adventure Van" will be at the expo, and the U.S. Southern Command Honor Guard is also performing. For more information, call the South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America at (305) 354-0020.

Air Force develops unifying symbol

By Col. Ron Rand
Director of Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON -- Recently, U.S. Air Force Online News carried a story about the development and testing of a new Air Force symbol and theme. Although a final decision on the symbol is pending, the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff are aware of the keen interest throughout the force in its ultimate shape, design and meaning. They also want all members of the Air Force family to understand the motivation behind the development of a new and unifying symbol and theme to represent Air Force people and all the important things they do for our nation.

This initiative is not about

changing or re-inventing the Air Force. It's about ensuring our own people and the public we serve have a clear, consistent understanding of who we are and the value we provide our nation. Following is an explanation of what it means.

The U.S. Air Force symbol honors the heritage of our past and represents the promise of our future. It retains the core elements of our Air Corps heritage -- the "Arnold" wings and star with circle -- and modernizes them to reflect our aerospace force of today and tomorrow. The symbol has two main parts. In the upper half, the stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength -- the enlisted men and women of our force. They have been drawn with great

angularity to emphasize our swiftness and power, and they are divided into six sections which represent our core competencies -- aerospace superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, and agile combat support.

In the lower half there are a sphere, a star and three diamonds. The sphere within the star represents the globe. It reminds us of our obligation to secure our nation's freedom with Global Vigilance, Reach and Power. The globe also reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crises and to provide

See Symbol
Page 24

Symbol

from Page 23

decisive aerospace power, worldwide.

The area surrounding the sphere takes the shape of a star. The star has many meanings. Its five points represent the components of our one force and family -- our active duty, civilians, Guard, Reserve and retirees.

The star symbolizes space as the high ground of our nation's aerospace force. The rallying symbol in all our wars, the star also represents our officer corps, central to our combat leadership.

The star has been framed with three diamonds, which represent our core values -- integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images -- at once it is an eagle, the emblem of our nation, and a medal, representing valor in service to our nation. (AFNS)



U.S. AIR FORCE

Go forward by looking back, understanding Black history

By Army Staff Sgt.
Kristing Bacharach
Command Run Assistant
Editor

One African American who certainly knows about moving up the ranks visited the U.S. Southern Command Feb. 11 to speak to its members about Black history during a celebration of African American/Black history month.

Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Alford L. McMichael, the highest ranked enlisted Marine, came to SOUTHCOM during a celebration that highlighted the history



Photos by Army Lt. Col. John B. Snyder

Marine Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee (Left), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff and host of the ceremony, gives Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Alford L. McMichael a token of appreciation Feb. 11 for being the keynote speaker at the command's African American/Black History Month celebration held at the Main Conference Room.

and focused on the future of the black Americans in the mili-

tary. The celebration held in the Main Con-

ference Room, began with an introduction by Cmdr. Damon Singleton,

policy and strategy action officer from the J-5 Strategy Policy, and Plans Directorate. Singleton narrated while a slide show presented the landmarks and heroes of a tragic, yet triumphant history of African Americans in the military. Interwoven in the narration was one resounding phrase, "I am an American fighting in the forces which guard my country."

The slide show emphasized the importance of African Americans' participation in

See Go forward
Page 26

Go forward

from Page 25

several wars and focused on individuals who distinguished themselves in service to their country.

“Despite their troubles, African Americans have made a grand contribution and a great impact on our armed forces since the Revolutionary War,” Singleton said.

Marine Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff and host of the ceremony, introduced McMichael. He spoke about the theme of this year’s celebration, “The African American Legacy and the Challenges of the 21st Century.”

“We have to understand that the legacy of African American history was built on a lot of hard work. A lot of legends, a lot of great people stepped up to the plate and refused to step back, refused to bend over, refused to take a step to the

rear to make this legacy what it is today,” McMichael said.

McMichael stressed the importance of looking back and understanding the history in order to move forward to the future. “We have to go back to rediscover all of the things that it took to have the legacy and heritage of African Americans. We have to go back to realize the injustice and what it took to overcome that,” he said.

After his speech, McMichael was presented with a plaque from McAbee and the members of SOUTHCOM to show their appreciation for his participation in the event.

Singleton then started reciting the words of the Code of Conduct. After the first phrase, individual members from the audience stood up and recited the following lines from the code.

The formal ceremony concluded and all were invited to enjoy samples from Ruby and Jean’s Cuisine Homestyle Cooking from Miami. Food samples included



Cmdr. Damon Singleton (Left), policy and strategy action officer from the J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, talks with Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Alford L. McMichael at the reception following the African American/Black History Month celebration at the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters building Feb. 11.

ribs, barbequed chicken, black-eyed peas and shish kabobs.

Commentary: Protecting our military

By William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense

WASHINGTON -- One of the clearest responsibilities of any secretary of defense is to protect the men and women of the United States who deploy in harm's way around the world to safeguard our national interests. That is why I, acting on the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, decided to start vaccinating every member of the military against exposure to anthrax, a highly lethal biological

agent that at least 10 countries possess in their arsenals or are in the process of acquiring.



William S. Cohen

In 1996, the Joint Chiefs of Staff identified anthrax as the number one biological threat to our troops. After the Gulf War, United Nations inspectors confirmed that Iraq had produced thousands of gallons of anthrax and deployed it in missile warheads, artillery shells and spray tanks for use from airplanes. As a weapon of mass destruction, anthrax is cheap and much easier to develop than

nuclear munitions. When dispersed in aerosol form, the colorless, odorless bacteria covers a wide area and kills people within several days of inhalation. In 1979, approximately 70 Russians died after breathing anthrax spores that escaped from a Soviet biological research facility.

Fortunately, Iraq did not use anthrax against our troops during Desert Storm in 1991, but we can't expect that future adversaries, including terrorists, would not do so. At a time when the U.S. maintains clear conventional military superiority, enemies will be tempted to turn to unconventional weapons, such as anthrax, as a way to defeat our troops.

Although anthrax is highly

deadly, we have developed protective equipment and medicines to secure the safety of our troops. In 1970, the Food and Drug Administration licensed a vaccine to protect humans who might be exposed to anthrax. This vaccine has a proven safety record of over 30 years of use by thousands of veterans, woolworkers and veterinarians.

Protective gear provides only temporary protection, while the vaccine constantly protects troops who might breathe anthrax spores spread on the battlefield.

After evaluating the anthrax threat and the safety of the vac-

See Cohen
Page 28

Cohen

from Page 27

cine, the general who commands U.S. Troops in the Middle East requested that all troops deployed to the Arabian Gulf area be vaccinated for anthrax protection. Every day approximately 20,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines stationed in the Gulf awake knowing that they could encounter an anthrax attack. The commander of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, who face an anthrax threat from North Korea, also requested vaccinations for his forces.

The Joint Chiefs reviewed these proposals in light of their conclusion that anthrax is the foremost biological threat to our troops. They recommended



DoD photo by R. D. Ward

U.S. Air Force Flight Surgeon Maj. Timothy Ballard (Right) administers the final shot in the six-dose series of anthrax inoculations Feb. 24, 1999 to Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen (Left) as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton waits his turn.

mandatory anthrax vaccination for all 2.4 million active and reserve members of our military, with the first shots going to troops in or scheduled to go to the Middle East and Korea. They

reasoned that force protection should not be optional; just as it is inconceivable to allow a soldier to fight without a helmet, it makes little sense to send a soldier into battle without protection against a known threat like anthrax. Because our military must be able to deploy anywhere on short notice, they recommended vaccinations for all active and reserve personnel.

I supported the recommendation of our military leaders. But before launching the vaccination program, I took steps to make sure that we were prepared. Complaints that the Department of Defense mishandled exposure to Agent Orange and the illnesses suffered by some veterans following the Gulf War

See **Cohen**
Page 29

Cohen*from Page 28*

in 1991 damaged the military's credibility on medical issues. We have worked hard to correct and learn from these experiences, and the one of the lessons is that our medical programs to protect soldiers in battle must be planned and implemented with an emphasis on safety.

As a result, I decided to delay vaccinations until four conditions were met. First, I ordered supplemental testing, consistent with FDA standards, to assure that the vaccine supplies are sterile, safe, potent and pure. Second, I instructed the services to design a system that accurately tracks personnel who received the six shots required in the vaccination program. Third, I required the services to develop plans for educating people about the program and administering the immunizations. Finally, I ordered an independent review of the health and medical protocols of the program. This was per-



formed by Dr. Gerald Burrow, the highly respected former dean of the Yale Medical School, who assisted the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

The vaccinations began in 1998 after these four conditions were met.

Gen. Hugh Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and I were among the first to receive the shots. We experienced the same mild side effects, such as a temporary soreness or a small bump on the arm, that many others feel. Indeed, the side effects are frequently less than those caused by other routine vaccinations that most Americans routinely receive. Our careful monitoring of the program reveals no unexpected side effects. Nevertheless, if our troops experi-

ence a negative reaction, we provide quality medical care.

More than 400,000 active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have started receiving the series of six shots, while only about 300 have refused vaccinations. We take seriously the concerns that people have raised about the program, and we are in the process of distributing additional educational material to explain the program to military members and their families. We have bolstered our Anthrax Web site to counter some of the erroneous assertions about the vaccine that are circulating on the Internet. We are continuing to monitor the safety of our vaccine supplies.

The military does not want to lose a single member because of his or her concerns over this program. But most of all, we don't want to run the risk of losing thousands of men and women in uniform from an anthrax attack for which we are unprepared. The threat is real, and we are carrying out a prudent, safe program to counter the dangers our troops face. **(AFPS)**

Command Run feedback

The following comments have recently been E-mailed to the *Command Run* by our readers.

(Editor's note: This section is where the editorial staff will print various comments about this publication sent via E-mail or snail mail by our readers.)

"This is undoubtedly one of the best electronic newspapers I have seen. The news is not cluttered, is colorful, and very well expressed in a professional manner, and attractive. You are doing a fantastic and superb job with this paper. Continue to produce a top quality item."

Comment here
Comment here
Comment here

Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here
Comment here



Command Run

Comments about the
Command Run can be E-mailed
to robertsl@hq.southcom.mil

Command Run Classified Ads

are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, or any other nonmerit factor of the user or patron. Classifieds are printed in this publication in accordance with DoD Instruction 5120.4.

Submitting Classified Ads

U.S. Southern Command active duty and civilian personnel are eligible to advertise a one-time sale of personal items, no longer than 20 words in length. Only one submission is allowed per family per month and should include sponsor's name, duty section, duty and home phone number. However, the ads only include a person's home phone number.

Please indicate what section the ad should be in -- autos or boats for sale, miscellaneous, yard or garage sale, car pool, houses for sale, or roommate wanted. Send classified ad submissions via E-mail to robertsl@hq.southcom.mil, or drop off at Public Affairs, Room 1240. Ads will run only once, but can be renewed by E-mail or in person.

Autos

1994 Toyota truck

1994 maroon Toyota truck for sale. Has air conditioning, Eclipse CD stereo with Punch 40 amp, five-speed, with new tires and heavy duty shocks. Also has Brahma Cap worth \$1,000. Only 65,000 miles. Asking \$7,500. Call (305) 629-9437.

Advertise here
Advertise here
Advertise here
Advertise here
Advertise here
Advertise here

Go to the fair for free

All members of the U.S. military and their families will be admitted without charge to the fairgrounds March 16, the opening day of the 2000 Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition.

Military personnel must be in military uniform or show their military ID to get in free. Family members accompanying them also will be admitted free.

The 18-day Fair (March 16-April 2) offers thousands of prize-winning student and adult exhibits, plus displays, shopping, agricultural activities, free entertainment such as the circus, an illusionist, Chinese acrobats and racing pigs. The midway has 101 rides plus game booths and numerous places to eat. Weekdays, get unlimited midway rides for \$15 per person per day.

The fair entrance is on Southwest 24th Street (Coral Way) at 113th Avenue, Miami. Hours are 3 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Friday, March 31 and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The Midway rides remain open until at least midnight. All parking is free.

Officer Gilbert Carlo



Organization:

**DoD Police/
Force**

Duty title:

Police officer

Time in service:

1 year

Hometown:

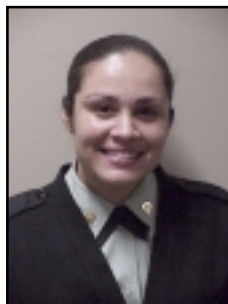
Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Hobbies: Model aircraft and ships, motorcycle riding and firearms shooting

Favorite duty station: Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

Career Highlights: Over 20 years of military service -- enlisted and officer. Was a flight mechanic in the U.S. Air Force; flew in submarine chasers in the U.S. Navy; and belonged to an airborne company in the U.S. Army

Army Spc. Lana Luciano



Organization:

**Puerto Rico
National Guard
(working at U.S.
Southern Com-
mand)**

Duty title:

**Special project
specialist/assis-**

tant National Guard adviser

Time in service: 8 years

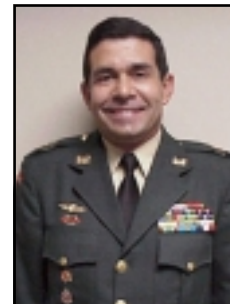
Hometown: Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Hobbies: Reading listening to music, and bicycle riding

Favorite duty station: Fort Clayton, Panama

Career Highlights: Being the S-3 NCO with exercise support at Fort Clayton, Panama from March 1998 to September 1999

Col. Gustavo A. Porras



Organization:

**Colombian Army
Duty title: Partici-
pating nation
adviser**

Time in service:

28 years

Hometown:

Santafe De Bogota

Hobbies: Sports: golf and tennis

Favorite duty station: Attending the Command and General Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Career Highlights: Brigade command in Putumayo; engineer battalion commander two times; Presidential aid de camp; adjutant general of the military forces commander; exchange officer at Fort Bragg, N.C.; honor graduate at Colombia Military Academy

J-2 Intelligence Directorate

New Arrivals

U.S. Army

- Capt. Diego Fernandez
- Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Ewing
- Chief Warrant Officer George Gale
- Sgt. Douglas Smith
- Spc. Stephen Baker
- Spc. Roger Bundtrock
- Spc. William Deruelle
- Spc. Darren Londo
- Spc. Melanee Smith
- Spc. James Green
- Pfc. Tristan Nunley
- Pfc. Timothy Schroeder
- Pfc. John Deist

U.S. Air Force

- 2nd Lt. Andre Demegret
- Senior Airman Robert Battle

U.S. Navy

- Lt. Albert Angel
- Senior Chief Petty Officer Deborah Siler

Baby Flight

Jan. 6: **Zoe Leigh Roberts**, daughter of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, Public Affairs, and wife Michaela. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.



(Baby announcements can be E-mailed to the editor. Please include the full name of parents and baby, date of birth, and photo if wanted. Please include rank and work location of the parent(s) in the military, or if civil service.)

- Petty Officer 2nd Class Jesse Harrahill
- Seaman Recruit Nichole Solberg
- Seaman Carina Gharthey
- Seaman Recruit Richard Woitowitz

Departures

- Army Maj. Kevin Doski
- Army Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Moyers
- Army Staff Sgt. Ira Hurt
- Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas Groves
- Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Lopez

Promotions

- Marine Staff Sgt. Anthony Garfall
- Army Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Dollar
- Army Spc. Patrick Riggs
- Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Streeter

Promotion selection

Congratulations to the following Marine Corps major who was recently selected for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel:

- Mark Van Kan



Job well done

Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm (Left), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, gives a handshake and his personal coin to Marine Capt. James Rich for his contributions to Joint Task Force Full Provider. Rich has been the JTF Public Affairs officer in Venezuela since December providing relief to citizens in the wake of devastating floods which struck coastal towns, leaving many without clean, potable water. (Photo by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell)